



Our 2011 Priorities

Better Public Services

STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT - FEBRUARY 2011

Education

Making sure New Zealanders have the skills they need to participate in the global economy.

- ECE Taskforce to report back on getting better results from early childhood education, particularly for children missing out.
- Supporting schools and teachers as they implement National Standards in numeracy and literacy.
- Expanding the Youth Guarantee.
- Opening eight Trades Academies.
- Building a high-quality tertiary education system, including 16,500 additional student places across the tertiary education sector.

Social Services

Taking a new approach to providing social services.

- Bringing social service agencies together to deal with the needs of the family as a whole, and in particular the needs of their children.
- Implementing Whanau Ora.

Welfare Reform

Improving results we get from welfare by addressing long-term dependency, and focusing on three key areas:

- Helping beneficiaries with children back into work.
- Helping sickness and invalid beneficiaries back into work.
- Making sure young people have the skills and support needed to get work and keep it.

Law and Order

Building a safer New Zealand and addressing the drivers of crime.

- Increasing maternity and early parenting support.
- Targeting services at young people with behavioural problems.
- Progressing legislation to minimise alcohol-related harm.
- Developing tools for diverting low-level offenders and providing extra support to those at most risk of offending.
- New legislation to improve support for victims.

A special focus on vulnerable children

National wants to give all Kiwi kids the opportunity to succeed. We are taking steps in four key areas to improve life for vulnerable children:

- **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Better support for children in State care, better services for vulnerable children, and a Ministerial Inquiry into child abuse.
- **JUSTICE:** Further work to protect kids from abuse, tougher penalties for neglect, and helping children who are in court as witnesses or victims.
- **HEALTH:** Increasing immunisation, improving maternity and early parenting services, and reducing the incidence of rheumatic fever.
- **EDUCATION:** Promoting participation in early childhood education and helping children succeed at school.

Health and ACC

Delivering high-quality public health care.

- Streamlining bureaucracy.
- Providing better frontline services.
- Focusing on our health targets: more patients getting elective surgery, shorter stays in emergency departments, shorter waits for cancer treatment, and increased immunisation.
- Extending the ACC accredited employers' programme.
- Introducing experience ratings and no-claims discounts to reduce ACC levies for employers with strong safety records.

Housing

Providing good quality housing to those most in need.

- Managing Housing New Zealand assets better.
- Reviewable tenancies for all new state house tenants.
- Growing the pool of affordable housing.